

From: Joel and Lynne Thomas
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I have been using computers ever since my first Commodore 64. I have used every generation of PC and just about every type of commercial software available. I fully believe the standardization that Microsoft has brought to PC use has benefited consumers more than any of us can imagine. I also believe their software is competitively priced and has always been a good value. Otherwise I wouldn't buy it, and I certainly wouldn't upgrade.

Having said that, I am outraged that our government continues to use taxpayer dollars to prosecute a healthy, innovative, American company; not to benefit consumers, but to benefit Microsoft's competitors. To say that a \$100 price tag for an XP upgrade is "too much" and is "monopoly driven" seems to me outrageous when I have to shell out \$60 for Palm OS applications that does relatively nothing.

The current proposed settlement is fair to consumers and is fair to Microsoft. It allows Microsoft the ability to continue making better products but does not allow them to strong-arm OEM's. Any State not buying into it is simply trying to use the courts to gain a competitive advantage for their Companies. If Microsoft's competitors were to put as much effort into developing better products as they do lobbying maybe they could compete.

Stop wasting my tax dollars. Settle now.

Joel and Lynne Thomas
Easton, WA 98925